

Message Text

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNESCO PORG AORG

SUBJ: UNESCO: THE MASS MEDIA--NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS

REF: PARIS 16611

1. ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT SOURCES, NO DEVELOPMENTS HAVE OCCURRED CONCERNING DRAFTING A "DECLARATION" OR CONVENING "WISEMEN COMMISSION", APART FROM THOSE ALREADY REPORTED REFTEL. SOURCES DID CONFIRM THAT TWO SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS (NAESSELUND, AND ANOTHER WHO IS "UNNAMED") ARE CURRENTLY PREPARING A DRAFT BASED ON ORIGINAL TEXT SUBMITTED TO 19TH GEN CONF, AND ON OUTCOME OF GENERAL MASS MEDIA DEBATE. NO "OUTSIDE" CONSULTANTS HAVE YET PARTICIPATED IN THIS EFFORT.

2. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT M'BOW IS IN NO APPARENT HURRY TO CONVENE THE "WISEMEN COMMISSION", ESPECIALLY SO SINCE HE HAS DECIDED TO PRESENT ONLY AN "INTERIM REPORT" TO THE 20TH GEN CONF. THIS IS COURSE MAY OWE TO FACT DG WISHES THAT NOTHING DETRACT FROM DEBATE ON RACISM

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WHICH WILL PROBABLY DOMINATE 20TH SESSION. AN "INTERIM REPORT" ON THE MASS MEDIA WOULD NOT GENERATE THE KIND OF DEBATE WHICH A "FINAL" REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS WOULD DEMAND, AND THUS WOULD LEND ITSELF MUCH BETTER TO WHAT SEEMS TO BE EMERGING AS THE DG'S OVERALL STRATEGY FOR CONDUCTING UNESCO'S BUSINESS OVER THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF.

3. IN FACT, M'BOW'S OBVIOUS INTEREST IN FEATURING THE RACISM ISSUE SHOULD HELP US IMPRESS ON HIM NECESSITY FOR PREPARING THE GROUND CAREFULLY AND WELL FOR THE "DECLARATION ON THE USES OF THE MASS MEDIA" WHICH WILL BE ADOPTED IN LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR HERE IN PARIS. WHAT BOTHERS US, HOWEVER, IS LACK OF ATTENTION (ALLUDED TO REFTEL) BEING PAID TO THE GROUNDWORK WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY IN US TO AVOID A DISRUPTIVE FIGHT AT 20TH GEN CONF OVER ADOPTION OF A MASS MEDIA DECLARATION.

4. AT LEAST PART OF THE REASON FOR SECRETARIAT'S LOITERING MAY BE DUE TO FACT THAT SEVERAL OF SECRETARIT PRINCIPALS IN MASS MEDIA ARE STILL NOT ON BOARD. THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE FREE FLOW DIVISION, MOHAMMED KANDIL (EGYPT) WHO WILL BE NAMED AS DIRECTOR OF THE FREE FOLLOW DIVISION REPLACING JULIAN BEHRSTOCK (USA) WHO RETIRED JAN 1, WILL NOT ARRIVE UNTIL SOMETIME IN JULY. AND, ANSER DELEON, A YUGOSLAV (EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE EDGAR FAURE COMMISSION WHICH PRODUCED REPORT "LEARNING TO BE," 1972) WILL NOT RETURN FROM ASSIGNMENT IN INDIA UNTIL EARLY IN JULY TO ASSUME POSITION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE "WISEMEN COMMISSION". ONCE THESE KEY OFFICIALS ARE ON HAND, AND A COMMISSION CHAIRMAN IS CHOSEN, WE CAN EXPECT THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRESS WILL BE FORTHCOMING. IN THE MEANTIME, NAESSELUND IS FILLING IN FOR BOTH OF THESE FUNCTIONS.

5. US DEL IS STILL HOPING FOR COPIES OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT MURROW CENTER CONFERENCE, AND HAS SEVERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING HARTLEY'S MAY 16 MEMORANDUM ON THIS SUBJECT. WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN FURTHER ELABORATION ON "FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION" BETWEEN THIRD WORLD NEWS COOPERATIVES AND THE "BIG FOUR", A LISTING OF "COMMONALITIES", PRESENTED BY KIRKPATRICK, WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS BASIS FOR INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION, AND THE "SHOPPING LIST" OF VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE POSSIBILITIES. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH DEFENDED "FREE PRESS", AND WHATEVER INFORMATION DEPT. CAN PROVIDE ON CONCEPT OF "DEVELOPMENT JOURNALISM" WHICH IS MENTIONED P. 3, PARA 3 OF MEMORANDUM.

6. FINALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF DEPT HAS YET ANY THOUGHTS ON HOW TO APPROACH "DECLARATION" ISSUE WITH RESPECT TO US INTEREST GROUPS (SEE REFTEL, PARA 4). GAMMON

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